(c) whether it is proposed to disband this committee; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Joint venture proposals in deep sea fishing are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(b) Nine proposals for joint ventures in deep sea fishing have been cleared by the Committee during the current financial year 1993-94 (upto 28.2.1994).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Policy to boost food processing units

2819. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has announced a new policy to boost food processing units in the country;

(b) if so, how many food processing industries have been started in India so far during 1993-94 and how many more such industries are proposed to be set up during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) As per the new Industrial Policy of July, 1991 most of the Food Processing Industries has been granted high priority status. Moreover, most of the Food Processing Industries have been delicensed except the brewing and distillation of alcoholic drinks and those reserved for small scale industries. Consequently, the Food Processing Sector has attracted considerable investment. Till, January, 1994, 2471 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda involving an investmet of over Rs. 31,700 crores have been filed. Out of this 140 units have filed the second memoranda commencing commercial production till January, 1994. Since Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors, information in regard to the number of Food Processing Industries Statewise set up during any particular year is not maintained Centrally While the Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up Food Processing Industries directly in any State, the Ministry under its Plan Schemes provides assistance to State Government Organisations, Joint Sector Companies, Cooperative Societies, Voluntary Agencies etc. for setting up|upgrading Food Processing Industries.

Strike by fishing workers' organisations

2820. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishermen and other fishing-workers' organisations went on a nation-wide strike on the 4th February, 1994 in protest against Government's deep sea fishing policy involving big multinational firms in deep sea-fishing to the detriment of small fishing companies;

(b) if so, what were their precise demands; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.